



Cornell University
Graduate and Professional
Student Assembly

109 Day Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-4203
t. 607.255.3715
f. 607.255.2182
Email: gpsa@cornell.edu
<http://assembly.cornell.edu/GPSA>
www.cornellgpsa.com

MINUTES
Graduate & Professional Student Assembly
December 7th, 2015
Room 165, McGraw Hall
5:30 – 7:00 P.M.

I. Welcome and Introductions

R. Walroth called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

1. Introduction of voting members, 1 min.

Voting Members Present: R. Abramov, C. Aurand, C. Benson, T. Bollu, J. Goldberg, S. Hesse, M. Jodlowski, K. Ladha, A. Molitoris, N. Rogers, T. Snider, T. Bernard, J. Veintimilla, R. Walroth, C. Wong, C. Yao

Voting Members Absent: W. Nicholson and K. Schlauraff

II. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes for November 23rd, 2015 were approved.

II. Call for late additions to the agenda

T. Bollu motioned add the upcoming election to the agenda. There was a second and the motion was approved.

III. Presentations

1. GPSA Focus Survey Overview, 30 min.

R. Walroth got feedback from students and explained the process of conducting the survey. He said there was a 10% response rate and explained the demographics of those who responded. He further explained the responses for housing, food security, the activity fee and the on campus grocery store aspect of the survey. R. Walroth also explained the quotes and comments by students who responded to the survey.

A member asked if the executive board has tried to resolve issues raised by the students. R. Walroth will write an article to the sun about the concerns as well as go over the concerns with the advocacy committee. N. Rogers said some of the concerns by students are new and members have an opportunity to be involved in these issues. If people are interested in being involved with external committees, they should speak to N. Rogers. T.

Bollu said the executive board is working on tax advice part. He and S. Hesse spoke of the bi-funding calendar and the power differential they are also working on. S. Chandrasekaran said it is not only the executive committees' responsibility but all of GPSA. A. Molitoris said they have been struggling with the mental health advocacy in the Veterinary School and the GPSA should become more involved with this issue. N. Rodgers said health advocates are asking for time to have a talk about mental health with the GPSA. This discussion will happen soon next semester. R. Walroth said comments from the survey will be used to work on these issues and they want to do the survey more often.

A member asked will this be started next year and R. Walroth said they are still deciding, but it should happen every two years. Another member asked if someone is working on the unionization and R. Walroth said GPSA is remaining neutral for now. A member suggested that if Grad Student Union is giving presentation they should contact the GPSA, because students should have a right to now that it exists. J. Goldberg said no one is running the union, but it is a good conversation to have next semester. The national GPSA passed this resolution about union of graduate students. N. Rodgers agreed with Jessie and said the executive committee stands neutral because of legal implications. T. Bollu said they are not doing anything because of the legal gray area and this issue has not even been resolved on a national level. J. Goldberg said what they are discussing is what this body will look like and said what they should do now is be as inclusive as possible but then there is a legal step in terms of negotiation. R. Walroth said just because they did not take social stance does not mean it should not be talked about.

IV. Reports of Officers and Committee Updates, 20 min.

1. Executive Committee

T. Bollu spoke of taxing issue he said it was not clear if it was a widespread problem. It has moved forward to DC office. Then they will contact other people to get back to GPSA. He will present the ideas of MIT plus conference. He said Cornell needs to do a better job of transferring new graduate students. He further spoke of research funding guidelines.

2. Operations

N. Rodgers said they added more positions and if people are interested in the committees they should speak to N. Rodgers

3. Communications

Communications committee will be meeting Thursday at 11 am.

4. Appropriations

C. Wong said they finished the allocation for the semester and they have 15,000 left for academic year, on average 5,000 for each session. They are looking for two new members if anyone is interested they should contact C. Wong

5. Faculty Awards

There were no updates from Faculty Awards.

6. Finance Commission

No updates from the Finance Commission.

7. Student Advocacy

December 8th is the last meeting of semester. The committee will meet in the Math library to and begin discussion about next semester.

8. Diversity and International Students

No updates from Diversity and International Students Committee.

9. Programming Board

A. Molitoris said will send email about safe the date in a week.

V. New Business

1. Approval of Activity Fee, 30 min.

T. Bollu asked for a motion to extend the terms of the open chair positions until spring semester, the motion was seconded and approved by a 12 to 0 to 1.

President spoke of GPSAF activity fee recommendation and motioned to limit debate. Someone said to limit time but not speaker. R. Walroth gave details about the motion and it passed.

There was a motion to amend to increase ISU to 1.80, second so the amendment was on the floor. There was a motion to call the vote and it was seconded. The recommendation passed by a 13-0-0.

VI. Open Forum, 4 min.

There was a small discussion about the communication email.

R. Walroth will send activity fee to the fields. Member gave a reminder about a resolution for the university instead of GPSA to defund it next semester. Also, the member called attention to the first annual report from the JA office.

There was a motion to adjourn the meeting, there was a second, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39pm

*Sincerely submitted,
Gabriela Borges*